

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th October 1900.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
The Persian currency	777	A bad road in the Bankura district ...	781
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		A death from overcrowding in a railway carriage ...	ib.
(a)—Police—		Upendra Nath's reward ...	ib.
Thefts in Bankura town	ib.	(h)—General—	
A high-handed constable	ib.	The proposed establishment of a Salt Department in Chittagong ...	ib.
A dacoity in the 24-Parganas district ...	ib.	Sugar industry in Bihar ...	ib.
Sale of cocaine in Calcutta	ib.	The expansion of the excise revenue ...	782
(b)—Working of the Courts—		III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein's <i>locum tenens</i> ...	778	Nil.	
The decision in the Kalidas case	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The Lepage case	ib.	Nil.	
Mr. Johnston, Subdivisional Officer of Sirajgang in the Pabna district	779	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Mr. Salkeld, Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj, Assam	ib.	Lord Curzon's management of the famine ...	ib.
(c)—Jails—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Nil.		Lord Curzon's rumoured appointment to the Foreign Secretaryship in England ...	ib.
(d)—Education—		The rumoured resignation of Lord Curzon ...	ib.
Grants to <i>tols</i> in the Chittagong district ...	ib.	British rule and Roman rule compared ...	783
Election of Fellows for the Calcutta University ...	780	Lord Curzon's rumoured appointment to the Foreign Secretaryship in England ...	784
Regulation of students' messes	ib.	URIYA PAPERS.	
Regulation of students' hostels and mess-houses ...	ib.	Expenses of the Viceroy's reception in Native States ...	ib.
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Price of piece-goods increasing ...	ib.
Cholera in Chittagong town	ib.	The case of the <i>Mahafes</i> in the Cuttack Collectorate ...	ib.
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		Effects of the floods in Orissa ...	ib.
The Chittagong survey	ib.	ASSAM PAPERS.	
		Nil.	

100 000 000

100 000 000

100 000 000

100 000 000

100 000 000

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 15th October has the following:—

The Persian currency.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
HABUL MATEEN,
Oct. 15th, 1900.

The causes of the depreciation of the value of the Persian standard coin are (1) that Persia has no State bank; (2) that as this coin is supplied by a foreigner, to whom the contract of the State mint has been given, the Government cannot always maintain an equilibrium between its supply and demand; and (3) that a good deal of liberty has been given by the Government to the private banks in Persia in carrying on their transactions. The Persians have to entirely depend upon the foreign banks in Persia. These banks in cashing bills reduce the value of the Persian currency as much as they like. Banking business in Persia is monopolised by the foreign merchants, and the cheques issued by them bear the insignia of the Persian Government. These banks, by introducing a paper currency and by depreciating the currency of the country, are, so to speak, practically robbing the Persians of their silver and gold. It is not true that this depreciation is due to the large importation of silver into Persia, because in India and Turkey there is no such depreciation of the currency in spite of large importations of silver into those countries. Persia ought to have a State bank in India, Turkey, and Russia, so that the Persians may carry on their monetary transactions with facility and without loss.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th October draws attention to the inability of the Bankura police to trace the theft in the house of Sri Narayan Babu, of Bankura town,

Thefts in Bankura town.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Oct. 16th, 1900.

and many other thefts in the same town, and says that the people are quite alarmed at this state of things. Some efficient police officers ought to be brought to Bankura to reassure the people.

3. A correspondent complains in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th October against a police constable of Dewanganj, in the Mymensingh district. On the 3rd October

A high-handed constable.

HITAVADI,
Oct. 19th, 1900.

last, this constable ordered a chaukidar to carry some things from the market to the house of his mistress. The chaukidar refused to do so, and the constable struck him a blow. Thus insulted in a crowded market, the chaukidar protested against the constable's conduct. This enraged the constable so much that he went to the police-station, and, coming back with two or three more constables, fell upon the poor helpless chaukidar and belaboured him so cruelly that he fell down almost senseless. It is hoped that the attention of the authorities will be drawn to this.

4. The same paper complains that there was a daring dacoity in the house of one Mahendra Pal, of Behala, a village in the 24-Parganas district. The dacoits mustered in an open field without meeting with any opposition,

A dacoity in the 24-Parganas district.

HITAVADI.

armed themselves with long sticks, and then broke into the house. Mahendra's brother, Jogendra, who is a circus-player, kept the dacoits in check for a long time with a *lathi*, but was at last overpowered. The hue and cry raised by the inmates of the house drew a crowd, and the dacoits dispersed, but on their way entered into two more houses. They then went away leisurely. All this took place under the nose of the police. One cannot be blamed after this if one thinks that the police were in a conspiracy with the dacoits. The inefficiency of the police has been shown not in Behala alone. There has of late been a recrudescence of crime in almost all villages. The people, who have been disarmed, are helpless and cannot successfully oppose dacoits.

5. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 20th October says that since the attention of the police was drawn in this paper (Report on Native Papers for 29th September,

Sale of cocaine in Calcutta.

NAVA YUG,
Oct. 20th, 1900.

paragraph 8) to the cocaine shop near the front door of the Royal Bengal Theatre in Beadon Street, Calcutta, a signboard, bearing the words "The Bengal Allopathic Depository," has been placed over the shop, and cocaine is

being freely sold there. A similar trick has been resorted to in the cocaine shop in 58 Pathuriaghata Street. The owners of these shops should know that a dispensary which wishes to keep poisons for sale should possess the permission of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals to do so.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

HITAVADI,
Oct. 19th, 1900.

6. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th October does not approve of the appointment of Mr. Abdur Rahim in place of Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein, Presidency Magistrate, Northern Division, Calcutta. Is there any rule that the Presidency Magistrate for the Northern Division of Calcutta must always be a Musalman? Formerly this post was open to all classes and creeds, but repeated appointment of Musalmans to the post of late may lead the public to think that the Musalmans of the northern division of Calcutta are naturally turbulent, and it is necessary that there should be a Musalman Presidency Magistrate well versed in the Muhammadan law. The Government should not let such an impression as this take a firm hold of the public mind. But if it was absolutely necessary to appoint a Musalman Magistrate, the Government ought to have appointed an old, experienced and pious Musalman to the post. Could not the Government do without appointing a young barrister to the post? It is true that Mr. Abdur Rahim twice officiated as Deputy Legal Remembrancer, but a much better selection ought to have been made for the Presidency Magistrateship.

HITAVADI.

7. The same paper writes as follows with reference to the decision in the *Kalidas* case:—
The decision in the *Kalidas* case. We must openly say that this decision is not worthy of the British Government. This prosecution, this persecution of an innocent man, this sentence of imprisonment, reflects great discredit on the Government—a discredit which nothing is likely to remove.

Unfortunate Krishnaji! Unfortunate Baman! We are shedding tears for you. Thank your stars for this persecution, this trouble; or why should the powerful British Government desire to put an insignificant paper like the *Kalidas* to trouble? Why should the lion desire to stain his hands with the blood of a mouse? Such persecution does not prevent, but only provokes, sedition. It does not create, but kills, loyalty. It is a misfortune that the Government and its officials do not understand this. This is, then, the freedom which the Indian press enjoys. The officials have no doubt invented a novel method of endearing themselves to the people. Let hundreds and thousands of papers like the *Kalidas* cease to exist, but let no discredit attach to British rule.

HITAVADI.

8. The same paper writes as follows with reference to the decision in the case in which one Nitya Niranjan Sen, Sub-Post-master, prosecuted Mr. Lepage, Engineer to the Selang Tea Estate, under sections 379, 323 and 448 of the Indian Penal Code:—
The Lepage case.

The decision arrived at in the case by the Assistant Commissioner of Jorhat does not enhance our respect for him. A perusal of his judgment convinces us that the accused conducted himself unlawfully in the post office, and that the case instituted against him was not false. The case now stands as follows:—The complainant was severely assaulted by the accused when he was discharging his official duties. He brought the matter to the notice of the Postal authorities. They ordered a police enquiry, and the police reported in the A form, and a case was instituted. The Postal authorities, however, kept themselves aloof from the case, although the offence was committed against the complainant, not in his private, but in his official, capacity. The complainant had to bear the entire expense of the trial, and the Postal authorities did not help him in any way. Mr. Lepage was acquitted on the strength of the evidence of Mr. Lang, who is a friend of the accused, and aided and abetted him in the commission of the offence, and of the accused's driver and a coolie in his garden. The prosecution witnesses were discredited. The Sub-Post-master next submitted a petition to the Director-General of the Post Office.

He submitted the petition through the Deputy Postmaster-General, but also sent a copy direct to the Director-General, fearing that the Deputy Postmaster-General might suppress the petition. This fear has proved well founded, as appears from the Deputy Postmaster-General's letter No. 851, in which he writes that the District Superintendent of Police has advised a fresh trial of the case. In the meantime the poor Sub-Postmaster has been transferred to a place so distant that he is unable to pay the expenses of a journey to that place.

00. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th October does not know what punishment the Government has meted out to Mr. Johnston, Subdivisional Officer of Sirajganj, in the Pabna district, who admitted in his explanation to the High Court that he had called certain witnesses *sala* in the course of the hearing of a case. A man like Mr. Johnston ought not be allowed to disgrace the Bench. The Lieutenant-Governor's attention is drawn to this officer, as the conduct of judicial officers like Mr. Johnston serves to create discontent in the country.

BANGAVASI,
Oct. 20th, 1900.

9. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 24th October has heard various complaints against Mr. Salkeld, Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj in Assam. It is Mr. Salkeld's firm conviction that all complaints made by tea-garden coolies against their employers are false, that these coolies are very fond of litigation, and that the mukhtars of Karimganj are extremely expert in getting up false cases. Under this impression he dismisses every complaint made by a cooly against a tea-garden manager without taking the trouble of even summoning witnesses. Some time ago a charge was brought against one Mr. Trevor, a European employé of a tea-garden, of having accidentally killed a cooly; but before the police had finished its investigation in the case, Mr. Salkeld expressed the opinion that the case was false. Summons has, however, been subsequently served on Mr. Trevor, and he will be tried by the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet under section 323 of the Indian Penal Code. Take another case. Mr. Cattle, Manager of the Haraligal tea-garden, was charged by a cooly woman with having attempted to outrage her modesty. Mr. Cattle himself admitted that he had asked the woman in a public place to show him if she had got a bubo on her groin. Yet Mr. Salkeld dismissed the case saying that Mr. Cattle's conduct was characterised only by "want of discretion." On the other hand, he sentenced the cooly woman and her husband to three weeks' imprisonment each on a charge brought against them by Mr. Cattle of having violated their contract by leaving the garden without his permission, although it was proved by the defence that they had escaped from the garden for fear of Mr. Cattle making further attempts to outrage the modesty of the woman. Here is another case, which occurred about a year ago, to prove Mr. Salkeld's queer sense of justice. One Babu Kunja Bihari Das complained before him that the European Manager of the Miratanga tea-garden had beaten him on a public road and broken his umbrella because he had not shut it on meeting him. Mr. Salkeld dismissed the case without summoning witnesses, and wrote in his judgment as follows:—

PRABHAT,
Oct. 24th, 1900.

"As this man has been breaking the ordinary rule of courtesy to be observed towards Europeans in this subdivision, he deserved what he got."

For this decision he was severely reprimanded by Mr. Porteous, Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet. But that reprimand has not evidently brought Mr. Salkeld to his senses, or he would not have acted in the Trevor and Cattle cases as he has done.

(d)—Education.

10. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th October says that the Chittagong District Board had sanctioned three hundred rupees for distribution as aid to the *tols* in the district. The Vice-Chairman and the head clerk of the Board, however, instead of distributing the money in accordance with the suggestion made by this paper and the Vidyavinodini Sabha among all deserving *tols*, have divided the amount only among the two *tols* established and maintained under their own patronage. Mr. Lea is too good a man to put a check

JYOTI,
Oct. 18th, 1900.

Grants to *tols* in the Chittagong district.

upon the arbitrary conduct of the Board. The Divisional Commissioner, it is hoped, will interfere and set matters right in this respect.

HITAVADI,
Oct. 19th, 1900.

11. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th October writes that the Government has withdrawn from the graduates the right of electing Fellows for the Calcutta University. This need give no one cause for regret. It is not a great loss not to be elected a Fellow. Nay, it is desirable that no one should like to be a Fellow of a University, which can, at the behest of the Government, introduce a book like Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India" into its curriculum.

BANGABANDHU,
Oct. 20th, 1900.

12. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 20th October thanks Government for the rules it has framed for the management and regulation of students' hostels and mess-houses in Bengal. Parents and guardians will now be able to send their wards to distant towns for education without the least anxiety for their moral welfare, because the authorities of the Education Department will themselves keep an eye on all such hostels and mess-houses.

BANGAVASI,
Oct. 20th, 1900.

13. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th October says that the two objectionable features of the rules promulgated for the management of students' hostels in Bengal are (1) that in the hostels or messes where students of more than one school or college will live together, the authorities of the more important institution will carry matters their own way without paying any heed to the views of the [authorities of the other institutions concerned; and (2) that the rules may give the authorities of Brahma and Christian institutions opportunities for introducing their religions and customs in the hostels under their respective charge.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

JYOTI,
Oct. 18th, 1900.

14. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th October draws attention to the prevalence of cholera in Chittagong town in which a whole Christian family has died of the disease, and complains that no arrangement has been made for the treatment of cholera patients in the local hospital. There is no one in the hospital to look after such patients, and not even the most ordinary bedding is supplied to them. The municipal overseer and sub-overseer are to be thanked for their exertions in behalf of the sick, but they can do little with the limited resources at their disposal. The Civil Surgeon's neglect of his duties is extremely culpable. He seems to care little for the health of the district, and does not attend to outdoor patients on Sundays.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

JYOTI,
Oct. 18th, 1900.

15. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th October writes as follows:—
The Chittagong survey. The Chittagong district has been subjected to survey operations more than once, but never had it to suffer so much oppression as it did in the course of the last survey. Some principle is being followed in the surveys which are going on in several other places in Bengal, Bihar and the Sonthal Parganas, but in Chittagong survey is based on no principle whatever, and the greatest mismanagement consequently prevails. Often there are serious discrepancies between survey *chittas* and *khatians*. One man's land has been included in another man's *daq*, and serious mistakes have crept into the record-of-rights. But the mischievous nature of the survey is not yet fully apparent to the people.

Two things, in particular, in connection with the survey require the attention of the authorities, namely, (1) the recovery of survey expenses and (2) the fees which are realised for the supply to the public of authenticated copies of settlement *khatians* and *chittas*. The procedure which is being followed as regards the first is most objectionable. The notice required to be served on the zamindar is not served directly upon him, but is usually served in his zamindari, which may be far away from his place of residence, or is served upon the panchayat of the village in which the zamindari lies. Neither of these two forms of service is likely to bring the fact of the service to the

zamindar's notice, and the cost remains unpaid and has to be realised by the certificate process which involves further cost. It is also not right to realise the whole cost of the survey of a zamindari from only one of several co-sharers. That is calculated to foment quarrel and litigation among the latter.

Formerly copies of *chittas* and *khatians* were supplied in printed forms, which cost one pice per form and nothing for authentication. Now forms are sold for one anna per copy, and a fee is charged for authentication. Altogether a fee of eight annas is now charged where a fee of only one pice was charged before. Even in cases in which two or three hundred forms are required for a single authenticated copy, authentication fee is charged for every copy of the form.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

16. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th October draws attention

BANKURA DARPAN,
Oct. 16th, 1900.

A bad road in the Bankura district.

tion to the bad condition of the road from Rangamatia to Hât Asureya in the Bankura district. The road was constructed at a large cost,

but has not been repaired since its construction. It joins two important roads in the district.

17. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 19th October says, that

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Oct. 19th, 1900.

A death from overcrowding in a railway carriage.

though the railways in India derive three-fourths of their income from third class passengers, they pay no attention to their comforts and conveniences.

The Railway Conference, too, which meets at Simla every year, has failed to make railway travelling comfortable for third-class passengers. During the Durga Puja vacation there is a great rush of passengers on almost all Indian railways. The Railway Companies know that there will be an unusual rush, but they do not provide extra accommodation. The greatest inconvenience is, in consequence, suffered by passengers. According to a correspondent, a boy travelling with his parents during the Puja holidays on the Northern Bengal State Railway died from the effects of overcrowding in the compartment in which he was travelling. Government should put a stop to such overcrowding.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th October writes that the

HITAVADI,
Oct. 19th, 1900.

Upendra Nath's reward.

Government has paid Upendra Nath Das Rs. 50 as a reward for the courage shown by him in saving

a passenger train near Gobardanga on the Bengal Central Railway. In any other country a statue of this railway hero would have been found in every home; but this small reward is considered enough for an Indian!

(h)—*General.*

19. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th October writes as follows:—

JYOTI,
Oct. 18th, 1900.

The proposed establishment of a Salt Department in Chittagong.

Suspecting that salt is illicitly manufactured in Chittagong, Government is going to open a Salt Department in that district, consisting of an

Inspector, a number of Sub-Inspectors, and a large force of military police, that is to say, Government is going to provide an establishment for harassing the people. But was there any necessity for such an expensive establishment in Chittagong? All that the people of Chittagong living on the seaside are said to do is to manufacture salt from sea water on a very small scale only during times of severe scarcity. The increase in the sale of salt in Chittagong last year compared with the sale year before last has been attributed by Government to the measures it took to repress illicit manufacture. But might not last year's increase have been due to the fact that, while in 1899 there was no distress in Chittagong, large numbers of people died or suffered from severe scarcity in the years 1897 and 1898? The step taken by Government will in no way benefit it, but it will be a cause of the harassment of the people.

20. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th October writes as follows, with

HITAVADI,
Oct. 19th, 1900.

Sugar industry in Bihar.

reference to the proposed grant to the indigo-planters of Bihar for the promotion of sugar

industry in that province:—

It is no doubt befitting that the Government should make a grant to the indigo-planters for their protection, but how far has the Government helped the Bengalis in promoting the cotton and silk industries of Bengal?

PRABHAT,
Oct. 24th, 1900.

21. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 24th October has the following:—

The expansion of the excise
revenue.

Every loyal subject desires an increase of the revenues of the well-regulated British Administration. But one feels horrified to think of the stuff in exchange for which the large excise revenue—one crore and thirty-two lakhs—of last year was obtained in Bengal. The excise report just issued shows but too clearly the immense sum spent by the people during that period in poisoning themselves with intoxicants instead of purchasing with it food-grains to support themselves. Just think of the people who paid, and the object for which they paid, this large amount. There is hardly one prosperous village in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa which does not possess at least one grog and ganja shop open to customers during all hours, and the labourer returning home after his day's work with the wages he has earned finds himself unable to avoid the temptation, though fully aware that his fasting wife and children depend for their food on his scanty earnings. Such, indeed, is the case with 96 per cent. of the lower classes in this country.

In appealing for subscriptions in aid of the Indian Famine Fund, the Salvation Army pointed out that four pice would enable a native to purchase his daily meal. Is it not then a wonder that a people who are so poor and can subsist on so little food, yet fall victims to starvation? And what is more wonderful, is that it is the same people who every year pay an excise revenue of a crore and-a-half. India would have been spared the present distress and the humiliation of begging in foreign lands if this large amount had annually gone to swell the Famine Fund. It is really disheartening to think of the ruin that is being brought upon the country by the increased consumption of intoxicants. There is no use of devising remedial measures. Everybody knows the purpose for which the Opium Commission was appointed. As for the injury that is being done by liquor, the annual report of the Excise department contains clear and abundant evidence on the point.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

PRABHAT,
Oct. 24th, 1900.

22. Referring to Lord Curzon's recent famine speech at Simla, the *Prabhat*

Lord Curzon's management of
the famine.

tude of the Indian people.

[Calcutta] of the 24th October says that no one can deny that His Excellency did his best to avert distress, and that he has thereby earned the grati-

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Oct. 19th, 1900.

23. Referring to the rumour that Lord Curzon may be appointed Secre-

Lord Curzon's rumoured appoint-
ment to the Foreign Secretary-
ship in England.

tary of State for Foreign Affairs in the new Cabinet that is going to be formed in England, the *Mihir-O-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 19th October writes as follows:—

It will be singularly unfortunate for India if the rumour proves true. To rule India has, now-a-days, become a task of exceptional difficulty. To rule it requires far greater ability, foresight and Statesmanship than the administration of any other foreign possession or colony of England. A ruler possessed of Lord Curzon's sharp intelligence, deep statesmanships and vast ability to please his subjects is eminently fitted for the Viceroyalty of India. It will be extremely difficult to get another Viceroy like him. We, therefore, pray to God that the rumour may prove false.

HITAVADI,
Oct. 19th, 1900.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th October has the following with

The rumoured resignation of
Lord Curzon

reference to the rumoured resignation of Lord Curzon:—

It is rumoured that Lord Curzon is going to resign, as his services are urgently required at home in the British Cabinet. There is no one else in England to fittingly fill the post of Foreign Secretary. It will be a great misfortune if this rumour proves true, and India will suffer, however much the Empire may profit by Lord Curzon's resignation of the Viceroyalty. We cannot say that all that Lord Curzon has said or done fulfils our hopes and expectations. But we shall still be sorely pained and disappointed if he goes away.

Let us explain why. Lord Curzon is a man of extraordinary intelligence and ability. He is learned and plain-spoken. He does not depend upon others and he likes to personally attend to every detail and supervise every department of the administration. His administrative principle seems to be to reform, as far as possible, all departments of the Government. What he may do to carry out his intention may not meet with our approbation, and may not always be conducive to our welfare, but there can be no questioning the sincerity of his motive. After Lord Elgin (*Æsop's King Log*) comes Lord Curzon, who never allows himself to be blindly guided by his councillors. Such a ruler rarely falls to the lot of India.

25. The same paper writes as follows with reference to Mr. Meyer's lecture :—

British rule and Roman rule compared.

The Native Chiefs and the landed aristocracy of India are being gradually weakened, and are being more and more involved in the meshes of politics. Mr. Meyer, however, said nothing worth mentioning about this. We have, however, no cause for thinking that he does not understand the intricacies of modern politics. We enjoy as much facility for appreciating the merits as for ascertaining the defects of British rule in India. We cannot, therefore, be satisfied only with descanting upon its good features.

It is true, observed Mr. Meyer, that British rule does not afford to its executive officers those opportunities for improvement and promotion which Roman rule afforded to its provincial governors for increasing their power and efficiency. But while the British system of administration is defective in this respect, it has undoubtedly minimised the chances of oppression and wilful misgovernment by individual rulers. Mr. Meyer is no doubt justified, to a large extent, in holding this opinion, but there is a good deal to be said in favour of both sides, and Mr. Meyer ought to have discussed the question a little more fully.

In Mr. Meyer's opinion taxation was much more heavy under Roman rule, but remission of taxation was also much more frequent. We do not agree with Mr. Meyer. The basis of taxation should be the income of the people. The income of the Indian people is too small to admit of the multiplicity of taxes which have been imposed upon them. Considering this multiplicity of taxes, we cannot believe that there is a more heavily taxed people on earth than the natives of India. Even the little salt that an Indian eats is taxed. As for remission of taxation under British rule, the less said the better. Every one received proofs of it during the last famine.

The lecturer then dealt with the question of Roman citizenship, and did not fail to make a passing reference to the legalised rights of the British-born subjects under British rule, and also to the advantages enjoyed even by Eurasians in their trial in courts of justice. Roman citizenship was, in Mr. Meyer's opinion, gradually extended to the provinces. Mr. Meyer is a Civilian, but he seems to be ignorant of many things in connection with the Indian administration. He seems to be ignorant of the failures of justice, which take place on account of race partiality. The Indian people have nothing to say against the rights of the "British-born;" but they do not enjoy even the right which is freely enjoyed by a Negro wearing hat, coat, and trousers, or by a Eurasian of mixed blood. The hatted descendant of a slave can keep a gun without a license, but a member of the ancient native aristocracy will not be allowed to do so. A Eurasian criminal in jail is not required to put off his shoes, or to wear a wooden ticket, but even a respectable native sent to jail is not spared these indignities. Such was most probably not the case under Roman rule. In comparing British and Roman rule, these points should not be ignored. We are always willing to eloquently descant on the merits of British rule, but it is not right to ignore its defects. Mr. Meyer has been rather blind to the defects of British rule.

It is true that people did not enjoy under Roman rule that liberty of speech which they enjoy under British rule; but it should, nevertheless, be granted that civilisation did not advance so far in the Roman world as it has at present. In these days, criticism of the administration and public measures is in vogue even in an unenlightened country like Russia.

HATAVADI,
Oct. 19th, 1900.

BANGAVASI,
Oct. 20th, 1900.

26. With reference to the rumour that Lord Salisbury wishes to make Lord Curzon his Foreign Secretary in his next Cabinet, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th October says that Lord Curzon has, by some of his acts, so much pleased the Indian people, that they have been thinking of applying to the Home Government to give him another term of five years. But fortune is against the Indians, and, however unwilling to part with him, they may have to lose him after his rule for only two years.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,
Oct. 13th, 1900.

27. Referring to the large sums of money set apart to meet the expenses in connection with the reception of His Excellency the Viceroy by the Princes and Chiefs of Native States in India, through whose territories the Viceroy is to pass, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th October observes that each potentate is bound to spend according to his means, but the money assigned for reception purposes should go to the Indians, and not to the foreigners, and this can be easily done by purchasing Indian articles or by employing Indian servants or assistants.

UTKALDIPKA.

28. The same paper regrets to find that the price of cotton piece-goods is increasing day by day, and that the Chinese war has told heavily on the cotton mills of India. All these mean distress to a large number of poor and unfortunate Indians.

UTKALDIPKA.

29. Referring to the way in which the appeal of Syud Muhammed Hasim, the Officiating *Mahafaz* of the Cuttack Collectorate, was decided by the Calcutta High Court, the same paper points out that it is not criminal to take copies of documents in the *Mahafezkhana* by unfair means or to enter a Government record-room with that object. The writer considers the effect of this decision on the morale of the Government *amla* as extremely doubtful.

UTKALDIPKA.

30. The same paper is informed that heavy rainfalls, followed by high floods, have done great injury to crops and houses in almost all parts of Orissa. The portion of the country lying between Burabalang and Suvarnarekha, in the Balasore district, was entirely under water. There the loss of crops, houses, and cattle was great and it is inferred that there was some loss of human life. The portion between Brahmani and Baiturni, in the Cuttack district, was also in a submerged state. In the Puri district, the villages in Serai and Chabiskud parganas suffered most, while the embankments on both the sides of the Kusabhadra river gave way, thereby doing great injury to the neighbouring villages. Kotdesh, Rahang, and Banchas parganas of that district, as also the villages near Chilka, tell the same sorrowful tale, while Godar and Karilo suffered most from the floods in the river Devi. The writer concludes by stating that the people and the authorities must be prepared for a recurring famine in the Puri district, as the loss of the standing crops has been very great.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 27th October, 1900.